

FARMERS, KEEP BOOKS.**Buy a Ten Cent Blank Book and a Lead Pencil and Learn How Your Money Goes.**

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I want to try to get some of the farmers to keep a book account of their transactions this year. You will not have to hire a bookkeeper or buy a costly book. You can buy a book six by fourteen inches—one that will last you three years—for ten cents. Then get you a good lead pencil, and put it in the book and lay it where you can put your hand on it when you want it. Turn the first leaf and write at the top of the left hand page:

February 1, 1904.—Money Received.

And at the top of the right-hand page:

February 1, 1904.—Money Paid Out.

Then write on those pages every five cents you receive and pay out. Keep your lines of figures straight down the page, and at the end of the month draw a line and add up both pages and see which is ahead.

You may think this a little trouble at first, but you will soon find so much pleasure and profit in it, that you will not quit it for anything. But, you ask, where is the profit? Well, I will tell you. I found out by my book that I was planting some things that cost me more than they brought in. The first year I ran up my book I found that I had paid twenty dollars for hay and I could remember that several acres of fine grass had fallen down and rotted the year before. The next year I sold hay enough to buy books. While I live I will never try to farm any more without a book. Neither will I lend money to a merchant that keeps no books.

Farmers having clay peas for sale should advertise them in The Progressive Farmer.

BLAKE JOHNSON.

Gaston Co., N. C.

Composting Barnyard Manure.

At the station we purchase a good deal of farm-yard manure. As this has to come from the city where hay of good, bad and indifferent quality, and those containing many foul weeds are fed, it becomes necessary for us to compost the manure for three reasons. First, to reduce it so it can be used in the manure spreader to the best advantage; second, to break it down and get it in condition where it will yield up its plant food most quickly, and third, to destroy the foul weed seed.

There is serious objection to a good deal of the manure offered for sale in many cities on account of the shavings or sawdust used as bedding. The source of the material is chiefly pine, though occasionally those derived from hard woods are used. The shavings and sawdust contain little or no fertilizing constituents, and it takes a long time to reduce them to available forms of plant food. Manure containing a large amount of these substances is not worth half so much as that where straw is used, as we have demonstrated from our experiments here. In view of the large and increasing amount of such substances used as bedding, the matter is worth the attention of the farmer, who probably does not realize the amount of money he is paying for something practically worthless as plant food.

In composting the manure, we first select a level piece of ground as convenient to the field where we propose to use the manure as possible. Owing to the fact that our prevailing soils are heavy red clays, there is not much danger of the plant food leaching into the soil, and so comparatively little is lost in that way. We prefer to haul the manure in the winter time when work is slack and pile it in compact masses about ten feet wide and six to eight feet high. With an abundance of rainfall in the winter and spring, there is little danger of the manure heating. In fact, we have never been troubled with fire-fang except once or twice in the summer.

After the compost heap has been completed, a large plow is run around the manure pile two or three times throwing a mass of earth up toward it. The additional use of a shovel for a few minutes serves to hold the liquid manure within the heap and as nearly prevents any loss from leaching as is possible to do under the circumstances. By this method we are able to break down and prepare the manure for use as top-dressing on spring crops or for use through the manure spreader on land that is to be plowed for corn or other spring crops. We have found that composted manure gives us quicker results in increased crop yield than when put on the ground in the raw condition, and as the land is generally too wet to allow the direct spreading of the manure from the wagon when first hauled and we prefer using it through the manure spreader anyway, the cost of composting is slight and the benefits derived more than pay for the time and labor of handling it.

It often happens that we have more or less rough manure to work up in our compost heaps, and so we often find it an advantage to first put down a heavy layer of straw and alternate layers of straw and manure in constructing the compost heap. Of course, other rough material can be used just the same as straw, but the straw is a good absorbent and helps to hold the liquid manure, and when forked over once or twice is broken up by the heating process. The past year a flood swept over a portion of our farm and destroyed some cereal crops so that they could not be used for anything except compost work, and they have been worked up in the manner suggested to good advantage.

A compost heap is difficult to handle successfully in the South in the summer, unless so situated that water can be put on it quite frequently. If placed in the open field it does not matter how large or compact the heap may be, it is always sure to fire-fang, and that means the loss of ammonia and should never be tolerated. A heavy coating of earth over the heap reduces the danger of fire-fang materially as evaporation is practically stopped. It is more convenient and better to have the compost heap convenient to water, so it can be sprinkled with a hose or put on with a pail.—Prof. Andrew M. Soule, Tennessee Experiment Station, in American Agriculturist.

Fighting the Boll Weevil

The war on the boll weevil has begun. The \$250,000 appropriated by Congress is now available, and the authorities of the National Department of Agriculture last week agreed on the following lines of investigation:

Farmers' co-operative demonstration work. This will involve the organization of farmers in Texas and adjacent States in such a way to secure the cultivation of cotton under specific instructions from the Department of Agriculture; thus a definite working plan will be given to each farmer, the farmer himself to furnish the seed and fertilizers, if such are required. These areas of cotton will serve as object lessons and will be planned to show the practicability of growing cotton despite the presence of the weevil. Similar work will be carried on in Louisiana, where the weevil has not yet advanced. It is planned to have 8,000 to 10,000 farmers engaged in this work.

Plans of breeding and selection of work. This work will have for its object the improvement of present varieties of cotton, with a view of making them more prolific and earlier, so as to prevent the ravages of the weevil.

The work will be conducted on experiment farms, which will be selected with due respect to climatic, soil and other conditions.

The foregoing work will be looked after by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The Division of Entomology will continue its investigations on experiment farms. Thirteen farms for the growing of cotton will be located in Texas, and the investigations conducted will have for their object the determination of numerous questions relative to boll weevil which have not yet been definitely settled. The question of the effect of fertilizers on the early maturing of cotton will be considered. It is planned that these farms shall embrace about one hundred acres each.

Investigation of parasite in the original home of the weevil will be made, the object being to introduce these parasites into Texas with the securing of the destruction through them of the boll weevil.

Inspection of cotton products, their fumigation and general expenses attending the certification required by State laws will be another line of work conducted by the entomologist.

Investigation into the life history and habits of the weevil and for the general testing of persons and machines. This work will be carried on necessarily in the boll weevil infected districts.

Investigations of other diseases than the cotton boll weevil, including the destructive cotton boll worm, which is one of the most serious pests in a number of the Southern cotton-growing States.

The organization of the work on the co-operative demonstration farms has begun under the charge of Dr. S. A. Knapp, who is now in Texas.

Don't Go Wild Over Cotton.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Look out, brother! Don't, don't get carried away with fourteen cent cotton and plant all your good ground in cotton. Let us say we will plant two acres of corn to every acre of cotton. Let us divide up. Let's try to have some cabbage to sell in June, and potatoes, and plant some canteloupes; they will bring some good money when money is scarce. Don't fail to plant a large sweet potato patch. You can sell and feed to your hogs, and when you get hungry they are so nice to eat.

And don't get in a hurry when March comes and when it rains go to plowing too soon. Be sure your ground is right. Don't plow just because Mr. A and Mr. B want to ruin their land. You hold back and watch and when you see it is right go ahead.

Don't forget your hogs; there lies your money. When we can have our meat and bread, we can raise enough of surplus to meet the small bills.

J. E. THOMAS.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Double Teams.

One thing the farmer at the South must come to is the use of the double team. He can no longer afford to use a single turning plow to break the land, nor a single shovel to bed with or a single plow to cultivate with. The two-horse plow, the sulky cultivator, the mower have become essentials for labor-saving on the farm and the up-to-date farmer will double up his teams and reduce his plowmen proportionately. In the West one never sees a plowman walking behind a one-horse plow.—Southern Farmer.

Hog and Hominy.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

For me and mine we raise hog and hominy first, tobacco and cotton second. We killed this winter nearly \$150 worth of pork, and expect to enlarge on that line this year. And the way I do it? I succeed each early crop in my garden with collards, from the primings of which I carry my hogs principally through the summer. I give my garden a good broadcasting of good home-made manure, then drill about 400 pounds guano per acre. Then in the early fall I turn my hogs on peanuts and cow peas. Then I only have to round them two or three weeks with corn.

Try it, brother farmer, and see what diversification will do for you.

J. DALLAS.

Chatham Co., N. C.